

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A spoked wheel ~~including~~ comprising, a rim with a plurality of holes for a respective plurality of nipples, and an equal plurality of spokes secured to said rim by means of said nipples, said nipples ~~[are]~~ being arranged to be fitted so as to be substantially gastight by screwing into the respective holes in the rim for the purpose of fitting tubeless ~~tire~~ tyres to the rim, ~~characterized in that~~ and said nipples and the holes receiving them on said rim have a taper gas thread in the sections where they fit together.

2. (Currently Amended) A spoked wheel ~~including~~ comprising, a rim with a plurality of holes for a respective plurality of nipples and an equal plurality of spokes secured to said rim by means of said nipples, ~~characterized in that~~ and each nipple is fitted so as to be substantially gastight into the respective hole in the rim and retained in said hole by ~~means of~~ axial bidirectional locking means.

3. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which said rim is of the single-channel type.

4. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 4~~ in which further sealing means are inserted between the thread of the holes in said rim and the thread on the shank of said nipples.

5. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim ~~54~~ in which said further sealing means comprise adhesives or sealants.

6. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim ~~54~~ in which said further sealing means comprise a seal.

7. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to ~~claim 1~~ one or more of the preceding claims in which said nipples comprise a hole into which a respective threaded end of ~~the~~ a stem of the spoke is screwed and retained.

8. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to ~~one or more of claims~~ claim 1 to 6 in which said nipples comprise a threaded stem screwed into and retained in a respective threaded hole made in the end of the spoke facing them.

9. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which said spoke has a light alloy stem.

10. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which said spoke has a steel stem.

11. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim ~~45 or following~~ in which a seating for a seal is made in the shank of said nipples.

12. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim ~~1211~~ in which said seating for a seal is made in an intermediate position on said threaded section and said seal provides sealing on the thread of the hole in the rim.

13. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim ~~12 or 1311~~ in which said seal is of the O-ring type.

14. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to ~~one or more of the claims 9 to 14~~ claim 8 in which the spoke is held abutted against the nipple as an extension of it.

15. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim 1 ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ in which the nipple has a blind axial hole running through it.

16. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim 1 ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ in which said nipple has a head shaped to provide a key feature for driving the nipple.

17. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim 2 ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ in which said axial bidirectional ~~axial~~-locking means comprise a shoulder at one end of the shank of the nipple and also a thread on the shank of the nipple which ~~can~~ engage with a female thread to hold said nipple on the rim with said shoulder abutting against said rim.

18. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim ~~17~~18 in which said seal is fitted onto the shank of the nipple close to said shoulder.

19. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim ~~19~~18 in which a seating coaxial with the hole and intended for fitting said seal is arranged in the hole in the rim.

20. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim ~~20~~19 in which said seating has a substantially cylindrical wall and forms an abutment for said shoulder.

21. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to ~~claim 17 one or more of claims 18 to 21~~claim 17 in which said female thread is made in a nut screwed onto the shank of the nipple to grip said rim between said nut and said shoulder.

22. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to ~~claim 1 one or more of the preceding claims~~claim 1 in which surfaces facing each other between said nipple and a larger-diameter part of ~~at~~the stem of the spoke are held apart by the formation of a space between them.

23. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to claim ~~22~~23 in which a deformable seal is inserted in said space.

24. (Currently Amended) A wheel according to ~~claim 1 one or more of the preceding claims~~claim 1 in which each nipple is connected to the corresponding spoke by a pivoting attachment.

25. (New) A wheel according to claim 2, in which said rim is of the single-channel type.

26. (New) A wheel according to claim 2 in which further sealing means are inserted between the thread of the holes in said rim and the thread on the shank of said nipples.

27. (New) A wheel according to claim 2 in which said nipples comprise a hole into which a respective threaded end of a stem of the spoke is screwed and retained.

28. (New) A wheel according to claim 2 in which said nipples comprise a threaded stem screwed into and retained in a respective threaded hole made in the end of the spoke

facing them.

29. (New) A wheel according to claim 2 in which said spoke has a light alloy stem.
30. (New) A wheel according to claim 2 in which said spoke has a steel stem.